and differential treatment for developing countries shall be an integral part of all elements of the negotiations in agriculture.

In respect of non-agricultural products, India has strongly advocated increased market access for products of export interest to developing countries such as textiles and clothing, leather goods, etc. through reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers and elimination of tariff peaks and tariff escalations by the developed countries.

India has also stressed the need for providing 'less than full reciprocity' in the matter of reduction commitments for developing countries.

India has successfully built coalitions with other developing countries to put forward its proposals more efffectively. These include G-20 consisting of Brazil, Argentina, China, South Africa, etc. for agriculture, group of like minded countries, G-16 for Singapore issues with Malaysia, China, Egypt etc. India is also actively engaged in negotiations with important developed countries and other developing country groupings such as G-90 consisting of LDC group, African Union and ACP countries.

Government have put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items and are committed to provide adequate protection to the domestic producers by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which include appropriate calibration of applied tariffs within the bound tariffs, anti-dumping and safeguard actions as well as imposition of countervailing duties under specified circumstances as prvided in various WTO agreements.

Marine products export to EU

*10. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the European Union (EU) as a good and growing market for Indian marine products;

(b) if so, the marine products export made to the E.U. in 2003-04;

(c) tire targets for 2004-05 for marine products export to the E.U.;

(d) Whether any incentives have been offered to the new exporters; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH):(a)Yes, Sir.

(b) Our marine products exports to the E.U. were valued at US $ 300.25 million during 2003-04 according to the provisional export figures provided by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA).

(c) Country-wise targets for export of marine products are not fixed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Some of the incentives available to the new exporters are financial assistance for (i) setting up new processing plants/pre-processing plant; (ii) automatic flake/chip tube ice making machinery; (iii) purchase of generator set; (iv) acquisition of all processing machinery and equipments for production of value added products; (v) establishment of chill room facility in processing plants; (vi) installation of water purification system, effluent treatment plants; (vii) acquisition of refrigerated truck/containers; and (viii) construction of new large cold storage; etc.

Payment of gratuity to teachers

*11 SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has ruled that teachers cannot claim gratuity as a matter of right; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures proposed to be taken to amend the relevant Act for paying gratuity to teachers as a social security measure?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court of India in their judgement dated 13th January, 2004 in a matter between Ahmedabad Pvt. Primary Teachers' Association Vs. Administrative Officer and others have ruled that teachers who are mainly employed for imparting education are not covered under the definition of "employees" for extending gratuity